



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel
48

Box
17

Folder
1156

Manson, Harold, 1957-1958.

1-4/10/57-

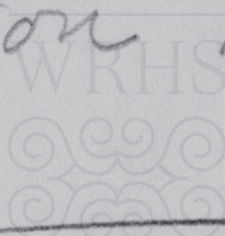
Harold Manson

(wife. Natanya)

115 E. 92nd St apt 7E.

my 28 my

Templeton 1-0336



של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

December 10, 1957

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

The film technicians advised me -- and I so informed Mr. Selzman -- that the 35mm print (the one shown at the New York dinner) will be sent to you by air express. However, it will not be available before Friday -- which means that you should be receiving it at the Temple on Saturday.

The 16mm prints, which were ordered for yourself and Aranha, will be ready next week, and one of these will go forward to you as soon as it is available for shipment.

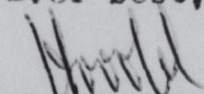
Will you please be good enough to instruct the person who will be in charge of the 35mm film to return it after your dinner is over.

I have been getting the estimated costs of the fuller documentary film production which I would very much like to do, as well as of the other project which I regard as vital to preserve the historic record -- namely, the making of a duplicate negative and at least one print of all the raw film material which we are able to dig up in the UN film library (much of which is already in very bad condition). The rough estimate I have received for duplicating the four reels which I have discovered to date is \$950, with the possibility of additional sound costs of approximately \$400 (depending on the condition of the film and on whether the sound tracks would have to be duplicated in a separate operation). I am doing my utmost to have these costs revised downward, but I think it would be safe to assume that even the limited effort -- that of merely duplicating whatever footage we have found -- would cost something in the neighborhood of \$1000. I am sure you realize that I cannot authorize this kind of project on the basis of my own non-existent budget. Emanuel and I have been trying to get financial aid for our film activities from the American Zionist Council, but I don't have too much hope for backing of this amount.

That's the picture as of this moment.

Please convey my best to the entire family.

Ever best,


Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

Z.O.A.—Building Israel and Jewry Today for Better Living Tomorrow—Through Zionism

Cable Address:
ZIONISTS, N. Y.

IN ISRAEL:
1 DANIEL FRISCH ST., TEL-AVIV
Cable Address: ZOAHOUSE, TELAVIV

של ארצות הברית

ההסתדרות הציונית



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

December 24, 1957

*Engel = London
Julius = London
Fried*

*10 Tupper from
Kramer
typ*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I doubt that any reminder is necessary, but just in case you have been unable to get around to it as yet, I am again taking the liberty of suggesting that you send notes to two friends who are not well: Leon Feuer and Abe Tuvim.

I spoke to Leon over the phone yesterday and, while he does not seem to be in any danger, he is evidently in great pain.

I saw Tuvim briefly yesterday evening and regret to say that his condition was not good.

I know that a few words from you will mean a great deal in both instances.

Tuvim is at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York.

Ever best,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

[December 1957?]

Memo

From

HAROLD P. MANSON

To

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Thought you might
wish to see this pre-
publication copy of my
next editorial!

Again - Mazal Tov!

Best,
Harold

Reflections on our 60th Anniversary

Sixty years may not loom large in the giant telescope of history, particularly when these are years in the life of the most history-conscious of peoples, and one is usually well-advised to eschew dogmatic conclusions from a survey of so brief a span -- all the more so when the events under review happened only yesterday. Yet, there are exceptions, and notable ones. The highest peaks in the historical landscape were thrust up suddenly, though many years, even centuries, of submerged volcanic activity may have preceded their emergence. So it was with the glory that was Greece -- an outburst of phenomenal creativity and intellectual achievement, for a century or so, not remotely approximated during the many other centuries of Hellenic civilization. So it was, too, with the amazing concentration of extraordinary men among the Founding Fathers of the American Republic -- a Washington and a Jefferson and a Franklin (the list could be even longer), each of whom could have singly distinguished his time and place, joined together in the same great human endeavor.

We believe that the Zionist Revolution is likely to occupy a commensurate place in the history of the Jewish people, ~~that it is a revolution of the people that has shaped and led it is obviously premature.~~ Our boldness in making this assessment even while the revolution is still in progress seems not unwarranted when we ask: what other movement of modern times has so fully achieved its major political objective within a half-century of its inception, reshaped a broken, downtrodden people into a sturdy and vibrant democracy, and within three score years set in motion dynamic ideas of social and economic progress for a whole region, as well as powerful intellectual and spiritual influences which could evolve into a great cultural renaissance?

The achievement of Jewish Statehood was, to be sure, accelerated by the greatest tragedy in all of Jewish history -- the slaughter of the six million by Hitler.

(more)

But this horrible validation of the Herzlian prognosis would in itself have failed to move the nations of the world to restore the remnants of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland -- for conscience in international affairs is weak and needs bolstering by might on the side of the right. It was Zionism alone that provided the elements which proved decisive -- the heroic Yishuv itself, which had been created by fifty years of Zionist pioneering and enterprise, and its powerful resistance movement which developed into the finest military force in the Middle East; the brilliant political leadership -- particularly on our own American scene and in the United Nations -- which defeated the schemes and maneuvers of the enemies and opponents of Jewish Statehood and achieved international support for Israel's establishment.

In these efforts, particularly in the political struggle of the 'forties, the role of the Zionist Organization of America and its leadership was of decisive importance. The name of Abba Hillel Silver will surely be permanently enshrined, side by side with those of David Ben Gurion and Chaim Weizmann, in the annals of the Founders of Israel.

But it is not merely of our glorious past that we think today, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of both the World Zionist Organization and the Zionist Organization of America. Our major emphasis is on the insistent demands of the present, and the horizons we seek are before us and not behind us. The "Great Debate" in our own ranks about the future need for a Zionist ^{movement} is, happily, petering out. The opposition from within now seems to consist of a powerful minority of one -- the distinguished Prime Minister of Israel. But even so eminent and persuasive a figure has failed to prevail upon the movement, which is acutely aware of its special tasks and its responsibilities to the Jewish future, to disengage itself of those tasks and responsibilities. Indeed, each new assault on Mr. Ben Gurion's part appears to be winning greater adherence to the movement, so that -- and we note this with satisfaction -- former opponents of our ~~new~~ consistent view that Zionism must yet perform a major role in Jewish history are now to be found among the staunchest defenders of the movement.

We of the Zionist Organization of America are in no need of persuasion on this score. We are concerned with the magnitude of the tasks before us and with the mobilization of resources adequate for their accomplishment. The struggle to ensure Israel's security and promote its economic development, the furtherance of cultural interchange between Israel and the Diaspora, the preservation of the unity of the Jewish people -- ^{this} is our work and our sacred duty today and for the foreseeable future.

HPM





Zionist Organization of America

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

February 6, 1958

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I received a phone call a few days ago from Dr. Lachman of the Hebrew University office here, and he advised me that the Israeli agronomist Dr. Reichert has created a new mushroom which he has named *Boletus Silveriana* -- after you.

This is really quite an honor, since there is no greater expression of esteem on the part of a scientist than to name his discovery after an individual. I hope that the new species lends itself to production and is also appealing to the palate.

Dr. Lachman inquired, at your suggestion, as to whether an important public meeting might be in the offing, at which time the announcement could be made. I have looked into this, but do not see an appropriate occasion in the current schedule of Zionist meetings. We could, of course, arrange a special luncheon in conjunction with the Hebrew University. (Mushrooms would, of course, predominate.) On the other hand, you might wish to have the appropriate announcement and presentation made to you in the course of your forthcoming visit to Israel.

If you have any special views on the subject, please let me know, and I will advise Dr. Lachman accordingly.

Warmest regards.

Ever best,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

Z.O.A. - 60 Years of Solid Achievement for Israel and Jewry



Zionist Organization of America

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

March 24, 1958

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dan:

Recalling our recent telephone conversation regarding your 10th Anniversary program for April 27, it occurred to me that you might wish to look into the chamber work by Ben-Haim referred to in the enclosed program which I just received. I have no idea about the quality of the composition, since its first American performance is still to take place, but the score may be obtainable for study from or through the America-Israel Society which is sponsoring this concert.

Apart from this, and the general observations I made during our telephone conversation, I have nothing specific to recommend at this point. Have you had occasion to be in touch with the office of the 10th Anniversary Committee? In theory, it is supposed to provide, among other things, the sort of material you require. In addition, the American Israel Cultural Foundation (formerly the American Fund for Israel Institutions) might have some music and/or musicians or art works on tap for individual 10th Anniversary celebrations.

If I hear about something especially good and appropriate, I will of course let you know.

Best to the family.

Cordially,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

P.S. -- Has Ray's end of the family come through for posterity? (You will understand that these days I am especially mindful of blessed events -- both in pending and consummated.)

Z.O.A. - 60 Years of Solid Achievement for Israel and Jewry

March 31, 1958

Mr. Erwin Savelson
New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Erwin:

I had occasion to speak with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver over the telephone today and he mentioned that you had requested an article by him for publication in the forthcoming 10th Anniversary issue of the New York Mirror.

Since he will be leaving for Israel in a few weeks and is pressed for time, Dr. Silver can comply with only a limited number of the requests he has received for articles on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary, and we discussed which of these many invitations for statements should be acted upon. I believe I was right in expressing the opinion that the Mirror would give the most prominent treatment to a piece by Dr. Silver -- not that he needed convincing on this score -- and that it would not be lost in the shuffle. Unless I am wrong in this assumption, I think that you may look forward to the receipt of the requested article by Dr. Silver in the near future.

Dr. Silver also expressed his appreciation of your recent series in the Mirror and recalled with pleasure the fine article you wrote on Kfar Silver. He asked me to convey his kindest regards.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver ✓



Zionist Organization of America

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

April 2, 1958

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

You will be interested in the attached copy of my letter
to Charles Auerbach.

Please ask your secretary to send me the full texts of the
articles and addresses related to the 10th Anniversary, which
you mentioned when we met in New York -- the Israel Bonds
speech, the piece for the Israeli press, the Day, etc.

All the best to the family.

As ever,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha
encl.

Z.O.A. - 60 Years of Solid Achievement for Israel and Jewry

April 2, 1958

Mr. Charles Auerbach
531 Leader Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Charles:

I am sorry that you weren't able to attend the Pittsburgh conference, particularly as I wanted you to lead off the discussion. As you have probably heard, it was a great success from every point of view. There was a sizable contingent from the Cleveland Heights Temple District. Some of them met with me briefly after the conference and indicated a readiness to do some real Zionist work, especially in the political sphere. Needless to say, I tried to encourage them. One or two also sought information on the "League," being thoroughly confused, though definitely opposed to the "League" as a separate organization. (This was, no doubt, the backwash from earlier shenanigans of Ezra Shapiro, with whom, incidentally, they expressed strong disagreement.) I hope I succeeded in setting them straight on the facts.

They tended to bear out the feeling you expressed that, with the exit of Shapiro, the conditions in Cleveland may be appropriate for a full degree of Zionist unity. Not being on the scene myself, I may be drawing incorrect conclusions from the brief conversation I had in Pittsburgh. However, I decided to pass it along to you for whatever it may be worth. In any case, you will, no doubt, be consulting Dr. Silver about such matters, and I am sure that you will be guided by his judgment.

On another item -- the ZOA public meeting which you are planning for mid-May -- when Claire Okonowitz relayed your message that Governor Williams was to appear in Cleveland in June, I was under the impression that this was in no way related to the Jewish community as such, and I therefore suggested that we should continue our efforts to get him for the ZOA meeting, however slim the outlook, since I felt that through personal connections we might get him to appear without a speaker's fee. However, I now note in a release from the American Committee for Israel's 10th Anniversary Celebration that a city-wide mass meeting has been called for June 4 at Severance Hall and that Dr. Silver will head the list of speakers. Is this the meeting you referred to in connection with Gov. Williams? If so, we will obviously have to drop the idea of trying to pin him down for the ZOA meeting, as a Silver-Williams program repeated in the course of two weeks in the same community would not make sense -- and would surely lead to a dispute between the 10th Anniversary Committee and the local ZOA. Please advise.

(more)

Mr. Charles Auerbach

-2-

April 2, 1958

In general, I believe that the scheduling of the June 4th meeting so soon after the date set for the ZOA rally is most unfortunate. While there is, of course, an advantage in the fact that our meeting is scheduled to take place first, the situation is still likely to create confusion. Is there any hope of having the June 4th meeting deferred for a few weeks?

Assuming that we are not to proceed with Williams for the reason stated above, we will try to get one of the other personalities mentioned approvingly, such as Senator Humphrey or Senator Gore. (I assume that Claire Okonowitz has relayed the information about Gov. Freeman's unavailability due to an already-overcrowded schedule in the month of May.)

I continue to receive very enthusiastic comments concerning your own speaking engagements for the ZOA, for which all of us here are grateful to you.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

HPM:ha

cc: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
Dr. Emanuel Neumann
Claire J. Okonowitz

Harold P. Manson



April 7, 1958

Mr. Harold Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York

My dear Harold:

I am enclosing herewith copy of my address THE ROLE OF AMERICAN ZIONISM IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL which I am to deliver at the ZOA Convocation.

The other address BREAKTHROUGH already appeared in the American Zionist.

The address herewith enclosed I also sent to the Jewish Day and to the Hadoar.

With warmest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:sl
encl.

ABBA HILLEL SILVER



Zionist Organization of America

145 EAST 32ND STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-9201

April 9, 1958

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
c/o The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Just to let you know that the copy of your address for the ZOA Convocation arrived today and it is being mimeographed for distribution -- with an appropriate editorial note -- to the entire English-Jewish press for publication after delivery.

Ever best,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha

Z.O.A. - 60 Years of Solid Achievement for Israel and Jewry

Memorandum

To: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

Date: June 9, 1958

From: Harold P. Manson

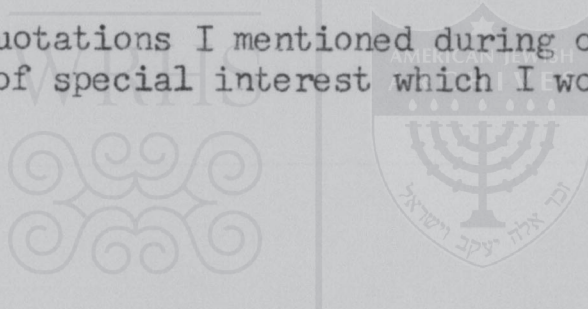
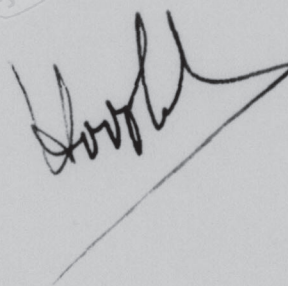
Subject:

Enclosed is a tear-sheet of the old article about you by Lipsky in the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia. A new one is obviously called for, and I have indicated to Mr. Rittenberg that I would be happy to undertake the assignment.

Please keep in mind the quotations I mentioned during our telephone conversation, as well as anything else of special interest which I would not be likely to know about.

Ever best.

HPM:ha
encl.



JOSEPH ABRAHAM HILFEL, rabbi, orator and Zionist leader, was born in Poland, Poland, 1893. He was brought to the United States by his parents in 1901, settling in New York City.

As a boy he was a leading member of a Hebrew speaking club named after Theodore Herzl, which conducted debates and performed plays in the Hebrew language. He studied at the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, graduating from both in 1915. He then became rabbi of Lott Street Temple, Wheeling, W. Va. Two years later he received a call to The Temple of Cleveland, the largest Reform congregation in the United States, where was still serving in 1941. During his ministry the beautiful new Temple was built. In 1925 he received the D.D. degree from the Hebrew Union College.

Silver was active in the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College. He took a leading part in the civic and philanthropic affairs of the Cleveland community. He was the first unemployment insurance law in Ohio, was a member of the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties

Union, and was interested in child labor legislation. He was chairman of the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund from 1935 to 1941, and co-founder of the Cleveland Bureau of Jewish Education and its first president. Silver was co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and chairman of the United Palestine Appeal from 1938 on.

During the first World War Silver was sent to France by the United States Government and at the

invitation of the French government, which later gave him a decoration. He attended a number of international Zionist congresses and in the spring of 1924 visited England on a diplomatic mission for the Zionist Movement as well as to aid the campaign of British Jewry for the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Since the beginning of his career, Silver had played an important part in the American Zionist Movement. He held a number of important offices, serving as vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the Zionist Actions Committee, the Council of the Jewish Agency and of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs. In 1921 he was a leading member of the Brandeis-Mack group but was among the first of the dissenters to return to active Zionist service. Silver favored the plan for the extended Jewish Agency proposed by Weizmann and Marshall, which was later ratified at Zurich (1929). He entered the lists actively against the British government's plan to partition Palestine, later abandoned. Silver was a consistent critic of British administration in Palestine and spoke with vigor and skill in condemnation of British violation of their mandatory undertakings. Together with Samuel Untermyer he organized the anti-Nazi boycott in the United States.

In addition to skill in negotiation and administration, Silver possessed a unique and unrivalled gift of oratory. On occasion his fervor and passion made lasting impressions on large audiences. His sermons and public addresses were distinguished for grace of expression and vision, for fine style and originality of thought, which often rose to lofty dramatic heights, and for boldness and courage. It set a standard for Zionist platform utterances and Jewish pulpit oratory.

His writings include: *Messianic Speculations in Ancient Israel* (1927); *The Democratic Impulse in Jewish History* (1928); *Religion in a Changing World* (1930); *World Crisis and Jewish Survival* (1941). He was awarded honorary degrees by Western Reserve University (Lit. D., 1928) and the Hebrew Union College (D.H.L., 1933) and in 1940 was Dudleyan lecturer at Harvard University.

By LOUIS LISKY

Lit.: Freehof, S. B. in *Congress Weekly*, Jan. 13, 1945.

Copy - AHS

Ernest E. Barbarash

July 22, 1958

Harold P. Manson

What do you think of publishing the attached excerpts of Dr. Silver's address before the Central Conference of American Rabbis in The American Zionist?

Believing that the Israeli public should be exposed to these views, I am trying to arrange for its publication, in a Hebrew translation, in one of the leading Israeli journals. At the same time, I believe that our own public might be interested. While partisans of our religious "denominations" are not likely to be happy about all of the things Dr. Silver says, we would be serving a useful purpose by stimulating serious thought -- and perhaps even discussion -- on the vital questions dealt with in the article.

Warmest regards.

HPM:ha

encl.

cc: Dr. Emanuel Neumann



Copy - AHS

July 23, 1958

Mr. Gershom Shoken
Haaretz
P.O.B. 233
Tel Aviv, Israel

Dear Gustave:

I just received a copy of Dr. Silver's address before the Central Conference of American Rabbis on June 26, and -- recalling our talks over the years on the vital questions dealt with in Silver's paper -- it occurred to me that you might be interested in having it translated and published as an article in Haaretz.

Do let me know whether you plan to do this, as I believe it is important that Israeli public opinion should be made aware of these views and would arrange to have the article published elsewhere if Haaretz does not plan to do so. I send it to you because I thought that the pages of Haaretz would be eminently logical for such an article, and also because I recalled your own special concern with the whole subject.

We are, of course, anxiously watching every new development in the current Middle East crisis. I believe that our activities of recent months proved to be quite useful, and I expect that the weeks ahead will bring important new tasks in the political sphere -- not that I expect anything other than more brickbats as reward for the Movement.

If another trip to the U.S. is in the offing, please let me know. I hope that next time you will be able to remain for a real visit.

With warmest regards, I am

Cordially,

Harold P. Manson

HPM:ha
encl.

July 24, 1958

Mr. Harold Manson
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York 16, New York

My dear Harold:

Thank you so much for your note and especially for the supplement to the article for the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia. It is really excellent.

With all good wishes, I remain

As ever yours,

AHS:sl

ABBA HILLEL SILVER